BLACK PANTHER

BLOOD HUNT

1 OF THREE

EATON
KARAMI
DALHOUSE



RATED T+



THE DJALIA.
I SHOULD NOT HAVE COME HERE.
ONLY A FOOLISH MAN RETURNS TO HIS ROOTS AS *POISONED FRUIT*. AND I HAVE OFFERED *ROT* AS TRIBUTE EXPECTING *SALVATION*.
BUT *MY MIND* HAS NOT BEEN FULLY *MY* OWN FOR FAR TOO LONG.


BLOODLUST AND POSSESSION HAVE RESULTED IN FAULTY DECISIONS--UNDEAD FLESH DIRECTING THE SPIRIT.
THE AUDACITY!
YOU CARRY THE SPIRIT OF THE DEMON HERE? TO THIS PLACE?!
TO DEFILE THE DOMINION OF BAST IS A TRESPASS NOT EASILY FORGIVEN. YOU HAVE SULLIED HER LINE.
A DEBT MUST BE PAID.
I HAVE COME SEEKING HELP! AID! A WAY TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF WAKANDA!
TO SERVE AS YOU HAVE SERVED!


YOU DECLARE YOURSELF A CHAMPION OF BAST?!
A PROTECTOR OF WAKANDA?!
YOU HAVE BROUGHT ONLY DEATH!
LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY, WHELP. FOR WHEN THE DEMON COMES TO QUESTION HIS THRALL, AND HE WILL SEEK YOU OUT, HE MUST KNOW THIS ABOVE ALL ELSE.
WAKANDA WILL NEVER FALL AGAIN.
IT IS KNOWN, MY BROTHERS!
WE ARE SLAVE TO NEITHER MAN NOR GOD.

T'CHALLA USED TO BE THE KING OF WAKANDA UNTIL THE NATION BECAME A DEMOCRACY AND EXILED THEIR FORMER RULER. BUT AS THE BLACK PANTHER, EMPOWERED BY THE HEART-SHAPED HERB AND THE CHAMPION OF THE GODDESS BAST, HE REMAINS WAKANDA'S PROTECTOR...

BLACK PANTHER
BLOOD HUNT

PREVIOUSLY

The **DARKFORCE DIMENSION** has erupted and begun to create an eternal night as the sun's light gets cut off – allowing vampires everywhere to launch a brutal attack against humanity! As a member of the **AVENGERS**, Black Panther fought a group of vampires called **BLOODCOVEN** who had brought all this about, but he was mortally wounded during the battle. **BLADE** revealed he was the mastermind behind the invasion...by turning T'Challa into a vampire and sending him on a quest to retrieve a key piece of Blade's plan!

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BLACK PANTHER CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY


THE TEMPLE OF BAST.
I WAKE UP ALONE.
OR RATHER, I CARRY THE VAMPIRE'S CURSE AS MY SOLE COMPANION.
MARKED BY THE DAYWALKER TO SCURRY THROUGH ALLEYWAYS AS AN UNWELCOME CREATURE OF THE NIGHT.
CLANK
BLADE'S "GIFT."


A RELIGIOUS MAN WOULD SAY, "WHO BETTER TO FIGHT A DEMON THAN A GOD?" YET BLADE'S VAMPIRE BREED FEEDS FROM A FALLEN GOD AT THIS VERY MOMENT, ENGORGING THEMSELVES ON THOR'S BLOOD.
WHO IS THERE?
AND I HAVE SHAMEFULLY BEGGED BAST TO FREE ME FROM BLADE'S HOLD, WHEN I WAS MEANT TO BE HER CHAMPION, NOT HER OBLIGATION.
NAME YOURSELF!
NOW!
EH?
A MISTAKE I WILL CLEARLY NOT BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO REPEAT.



GUARDS!
HE HAS INGESTED THE HEART-SHAPED HERB!


SEIZE HIM!
DO NOT LET HIM ESCAPE!
I KNOW THESE *CATACOMBS* AS I KNOW *MY OWN HEART.*
DUE TO THE VAMPIRE'S CURSE, I NOW KNOW THE HEARTS OF *MY* PURSUERS AS WELL. I CAN HEAR THE RUSH OF *BLOOD*, FEEL EACH *BEAT* FOLDING INTO A *TANTALIZING PERCUSSION* THAT ENTICES *ME* TO *FEED.*
BUT I HAVE YET TO TASTE THE BLOOD OF A HUMAN.


I WILL NOT TASTE THE BLOOD OF A HUMAN!
QUICKLY, MEN! THE DEFILER MUST BE CAUGHT!
DEATH IS YOUR ONLY OPTION, IMPOSTOR!
NOT AS LONG AS I REMEMBER WHO I AM.
YOU WOULD CHASE ONE ROYAL BORN AS IF AN ANIMAL?
I AM YOUR KING!
STAND DOWN!


KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
WHAT MADNESS?
SNAP
IT APPEARS I NOT ONLY CARRY BLADE'S CURSE, BUT HIS *POWERS OF INFLUENCE* AS WELL.
THAT SHOULD SERVE USEFUL IN ENGINEERING THE BLOODCOVEN'S *DEFEAT.*

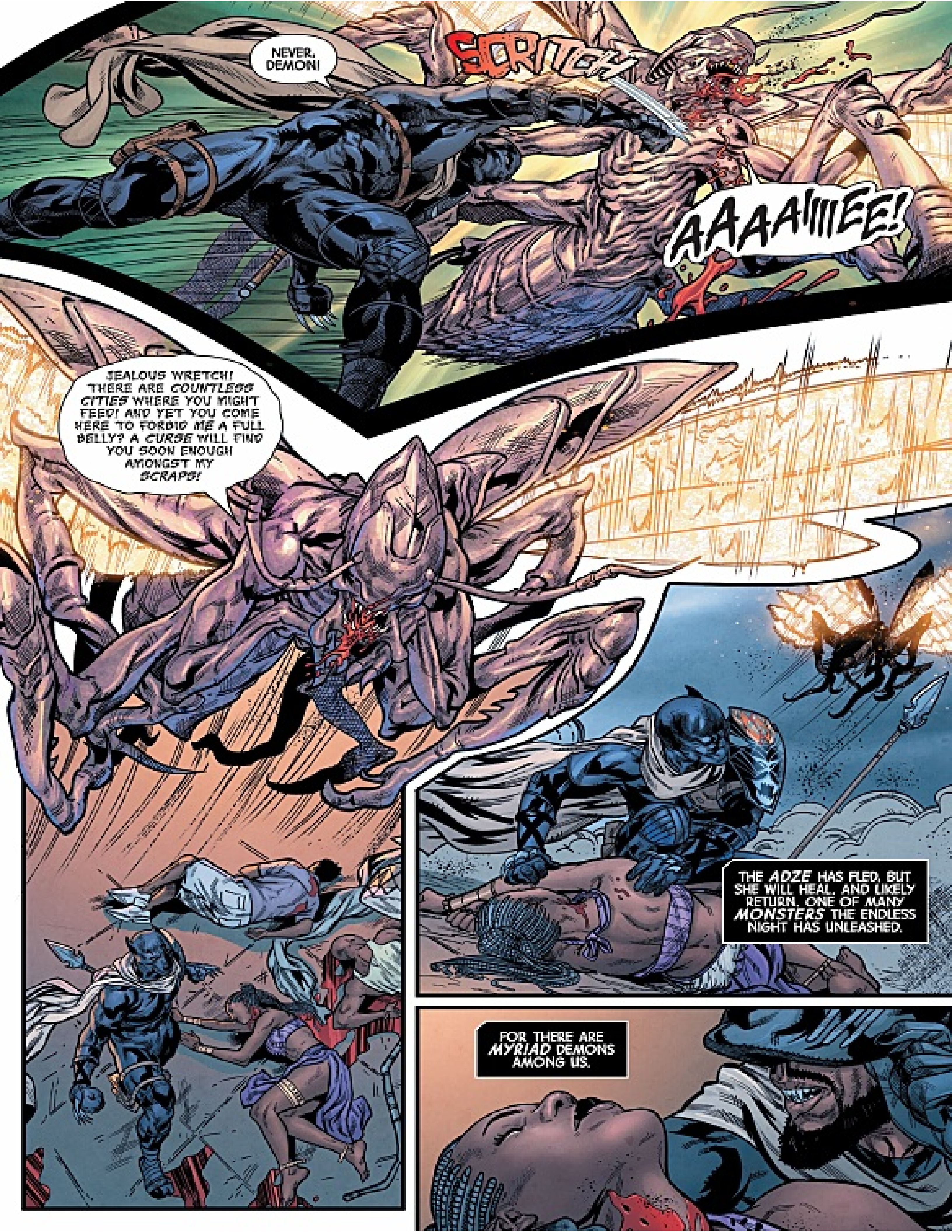

IT IS TRUE THAT BLADE HAS INFECTED BAST'S LINE.
YET BAST'S WILL SOON CONSUME *HIS*.


BIRNIN ZANA. "THE GOLDEN CITY."
THE HEART-SHAPED HERB HAS RETURNED SOME SEMBLANCE OF WHAT I ONCE WAS, ONE WHO CAN SHIELD AND AVENGE THIS NATION ONCE MORE.
BUT WHERE TO BEGIN?
YOU WILL BEGIN BY LOCATING THE TEMPLE RUINS AS INSTRUCTED, AND HAVE THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY DELIVER THE SITE TO ME.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN SAVE YOUR PEOPLE? THIS STUBBORNNESS ONLY PROLONGS WAKANDA'S SUFFERING!
I CHOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU KNOW THIS TERRAIN, BECAUSE YOU ARE THE LAST OF THE FIRST. BUT MAYBE THAT WAS A MISTAKE.
IT WAS, BLADE.



AS THE ENERGIES OF THE *DARKFORCE DIMENSION* FLOOD THE EARTH, THE CREATURES OF THE NIGHT GROW BOLD. INSPIRED TO TAKE ADVANTAGES DENIED BY THE LIGHT OF DAY.
I HAVE ONLY THE LAST VESTIGES OF MOONLIGHT TO GUIDE *ME* THIS NIGHT. AND NO HOPE OF A RISING SUN TOMORROW.
THWUMP
THE SUN BANISHED DEMONS FROM THE BREADTH OF ITS RAYS--BUT ALSO ERODED HUMANITY'S VIGILANCE. HUMANKIND GREW *WEAK* UNDER THE DAILY ASSURANCE OF ITS *LIGHT*.
DEVOID OF THE SUN'S LUMINESCENCE, THAT SOFT UNDERBELLY WILL SOON BECOME AN *OPEN WOUND*.


THERE IS NO MEAL HERE FOR YOU TO SHARE, MY BROTHER! LEAVE ME BE! IT HAS BEEN EONS SINCE I'VE FED THIS WELL!
THE ADZE. MOTHER OF PESTILENCE.
YOU WILL PAY FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, ADZE!
TWACK
I SHALL NOT!
I SAID LEAVE ME BE!


NEVER, DEMON!
SCRITCH
AAAAIIIIEE!
JEALOUS WRETCH! THERE ARE COUNTLESS CITIES WHERE YOU MIGHT FEED! AND YET YOU COME HERE TO FORBID ME A FULL BELLY? A CURSE WILL FIND YOU SOON ENOUGH AMONGST MY SCRAPS!
THE ADZE HAS FLED, BUT SHE WILL HEAL, AND LIKELY RETURN. ONE OF MANY MONSTERS THE ENDLESS NIGHT HAS UNLEASHED.
FOR THERE ARE MYRIAD DEMONS AMONG US.


WITH HUNGER *UNSATED.*
STOP.
SHURI.
THE SOUND OF HER *VOICE*, A MERE GUTTURAL SYLLABLE, RETURNS ME TO MY *HUMANITY*.
THE *KNIFE* IS UNNECESSARY, BUT *MY* SISTER HAS ALWAYS PREFERRED TO BE *OVERPREPARED*.


FEED.
HER BLOOD IS AS IF AMBROSIA. MANNA. AS SWEET AS MOTHER'S MILK AND AS SUSTAINING.
FOR A MOMENT, I DO NOT KNOW IF I COULD EVER BREAK AWAY.



BUT THEN I SEE MY SISTER'S EYES, SHINING WITH PITY.
AND SHAME BREAKS OUR BLOOD BOND.
THANK YOU.
THAT IS ENOUGH.
ENOUGH FOR YOU PERHAPS!
BUT I STILL HUNGER.


SORRY, I'VE ONLY A SWIFT AND BLOODLESS DEATH TO SERVE YOU.
I DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY AGONIES WAKANDA CAN WITHSTAND. I SOMETIMES WONDER IF OUR RETREAT FROM ISOLATION WAS A MISTAKE.
I SOUND LIKE YOU, EH? BUT YOU MUST ADMIT THAT THESE ARE UNIQUE TIMES!
I BELIEVE I HAVE A SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM. TEMPORARY, BUT A SOLUTION NONETHELESS. HOWEVER, I MAY NEED AN AVENGER'S ASSISTANCE--WHAT SAY YOU, T'CHALLA?
T'CHALLA?


THE CITY IS IN *CHAOS*. MONSTERS HUNT FREE AMONGST MAN. AND SOON THAT FRENZY WILL BE AIDED BY A CLOAK OF *ENDLESS NIGHT*.
THERE ARE FAR TOO FEW OF US WILLING TO STAND AS RAMPARTS AGAINST THE ONCOMING HORDES. TO SERVE AS A BEACON OF LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS.
WE WERE NOT PREPARED.
I WAS NOT PREPARED.


HOLD THE LINE! USE YOUR U.V. SPOTLIGHTS TO BURN THEM BEFORE THEY PASS!
DARKNESS SERVED AS WAKANDA'S SHIELD FOR SO LONG THAT I HAD FORGOTTEN IT COULD CORRUPT. COULD BE CORRUPTED.
AAAIIIIEEEEEE!
SUNDEATH: 08:14:22.
JUST AS LIGHT CAN LEAD A MAN TO SALVATION OR BLIND HIM IN EQUAL MEASURE.
SCHLUK
SO WHILE THE PANTHER HUNTED BENEATH A SHROUD OF SHADOWS TO PROVIDE FOR ITS CHILDREN, ITS PROGENY WAS STALKED IN ITS ABSENCE.
SUNDEATH: 11:07:41.


MY KING?
WHEN I WAS DRIVEN FROM THIS LAND, I LEFT MY PEOPLE UNPROTECTED. THAT DECISION HAS BROUGHT HARM TO US ALL.
BUT I HAVE RETURNED TO VANQUISH A SULLIED DARKNESS OF WHICH I AM NOW A PART.
I AM WAKANDA'S PRODIGAL SUN.
SUNDEATH: 15:39:12.


SUNDEATH: 24:00:01.
ARRRGH!
BAST. BAST, HELP ME.


PATHETIC. A WAYWARD CHILD.
YOU WOULDN'T HURT IF YOU WOULD FEED, T'CHALLA! ACCEPT WHAT YOU ARE. RECOGNIZE THE GIFT I'VE GIVEN YOU.


LOOK AT YOU. LAST OF THE FIRST. BAST'S FINAL CHAMPION. PERHAPS THE STRONGEST OF MY SCIONS. GROVELING HERE ON THE GROUND.
TSK! A PUZZLING OBSTINANCE, SON.

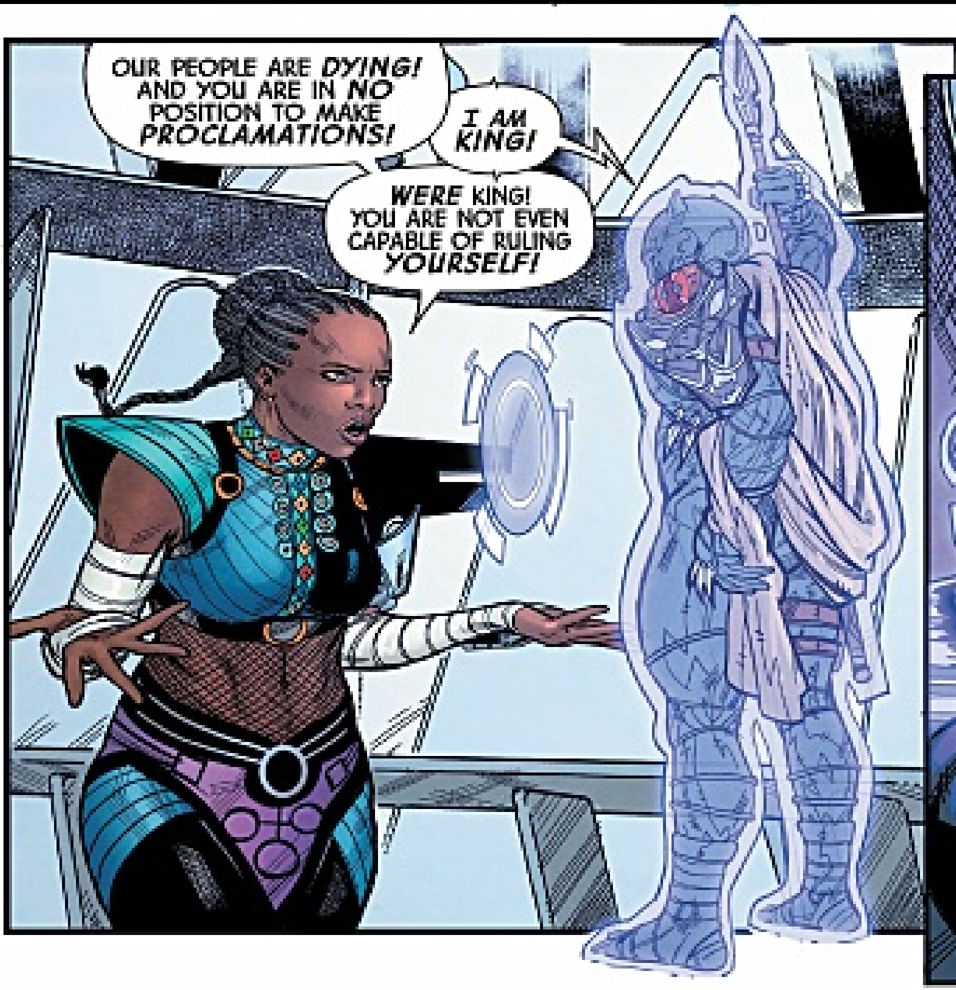

I AM NOT YOUR SON!
BUT I AM YOUR SIRE. AND YOU WILL OBEY. OR WE'LL SEE HOW MUCH PAIN A MAN CAN ENDURE WHEN DENIED THE RELIEF OF DEATH.
DO NOT TEST ME, T'CHALLA.
EITHER YOU FIND THE TEMPLE THAT YOUR GODS HAVE HIDDEN FROM ME OR I'LL RAZE WAKANDA MYSELF TO GET IT!


T'CHALLA?
GO FROM MY SIGHT, EVIL SPIRIT!
AND TO WHOM DO YOU THINK YOU ARE SPEAKING?
AH, SHURI! YOU ARE A JOY TO BEHOLD!



NOW THAT IS AN APPROPRIATE GREETING FOR ME!
WHERE ARE YOU?
SOMEWHERE SAFE. FOR NOW. BENEATH THE PRESENCE OF AN ARTIFICIAL SUN. BUT ITS POWER IS FINITE AND OUR RESOURCES ARE LIMITED, AS IS OUR MOBILITY. THE MOMENT WE LEAVE, WE ARE AT RISK.
I KNOW MY SISTER TOO WELL. I ASSUME RISKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN.
A CORRECT ASSUMPTION! BUT EACH RISK WELL WORTH IT. WE'VE BEEN EVACUATING THOSE WHO CAN HELP US RALLY AND REBUILD. SCIENTISTS. HISTORIANS—EVEN A POLITICIAN OR TWO, AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT.


THE DARKFORCE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PENETRATE LATVERIA'S BORDERS. PERHAPS DOOM--
NO!
DO NOT GO TO DOOM!


OUR PEOPLE ARE DYING! AND YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO MAKE PROCLAMATIONS!
I AM KING!
WERE KING! YOU ARE NOT EVEN CAPABLE OF RULING YOURSELF!


T'CHALLA-- BZZT--LISTEN TO ME--BZZT
KRITCH


SHE IS RIGHT.
MY BODY IS NO LONGER MY OWN. THE BLOODLUST REVERBERATES WITHIN ME LIKE A CLARION CALL, AS DOES BLADE'S DEMAND.
THE LONGER I REMAIN IN THE CITY, THE MORE I AM A DANGER TO IT. EVENTUALLY I WOULD BECOME THE MONSTER I FIGHT.


MSITU WA DHABIHU. WAKANDAN NATURE PRESERVE.
THE ONLY CHOICE TO PROTECT *MY* PEOPLE IS A RETURN TO ***EXILE***. TO RESIGN MYSELF TO WHERE A DEMON BELONGS.
THE ***WILDERNESS***.
AS I MOVE FARTHER INTO THE BRUSH, THE BLOODLUST ABATES. DIVORCED FROM ***HUMANITY***, I AM NO LONGER TEMPTED TO ACT AS ***PREDATOR***.
BUT I HAVE GROWN MORE APPEALING AS ***PREY***.


ONCE AGAIN, FACE-TO-FACE WITH MY *NAMESAKE*. NO MATTER HOW FAR I STRAY, AS SURE AS THE *SANKOFA*, I END UP BACK WHERE I BEGAN.
TO BE CONTINUED.

NEXT:

BLACK PANTHER BLOOD HUNT

2

Black Panther must fight against Blade's vampiric influence for Wakanda's safety! But the goddess Bast is still angry he has brought his bloodthirst to Wakanda – what will her divine retribution hold when T'Challa's back is to the wall?



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BLOOD HUNT

MAY CHECKLIST

- ■ FREE COMIC BOOK DAY: BLOOD HUNT/X-MEN #1
- ■ VENGEANCE OF THE MOON KNIGHT #5
- ■ **BLOOD HUNT #1**
- ■ **BLOOD HUNT: RED BAND #1**
- ■ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #49
- ■ AVENGERS #14
- ■ BLOOD HUNTERS #1
- ■ DOCTOR STRANGE #15
- ■ DRACULA: BLOOD HUNT #1
- ■ STRANGE ACADEMY: BLOOD HUNT #1
- ■ VENOM #33
- ■ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: BLOOD HUNT #1
- ■ UNION JACK THE RIPPER: BLOOD HUNT #1
- ■ **BLOOD HUNT #2**
- ■ **BLOOD HUNT: RED BAND #2**
- ■ BLACK PANTHER: BLOOD HUNT #1
- □ MIDNIGHT SONS: BLOOD HUNT #1

THE HUNT CONTINUES IN JUNE...